



CALPEEK

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HORCHER RECALL UPDATE: ONE WEEK TO GO.

Editor's note: There's just one week left before the May 16th recall election of Assemblyman Paul Horcher (I-Diamond Bar). Here's CALPEEK's latest update & analysis...

...There's some new polling data that's been made available to CALPEEK. The survey is by Sacto-based Meta Information Services, taken Apr. 30th, sample size 250 (6.2% +/-). The small sample size presents CALPEEK with some problems (in terms of reliability), but it's the only poll we've seen. The poll shows that Horcher has a huge **negative image**: 65.5% among absentee voters, 48.2% among non-absentee voters. On the key question of *should Horcher be recalled*, 59.6% say YES, 21.6% say NO, and 8% are undecided. About 1.2% lean YES, while 9.6% lean NO. In other words, he could be *toast*. If he were to hold on, it would be one of the biggest upsets of all time...

...As for the head-to-head battle between those who would like to replace Horcher, this poll shows community college trustee Barbara Stone(R) is ahead of Diamond Bar Councilman Gary Miller(R) and 4 others, including Demo Andy Ramirez. In the overall survey, 25.6% support Stone, 20% are for Miller, 10% support Ramirez, 4% back GOPer Jim Hale and .8% back Royal Meservy(R). Among the absentee voters, Stone leads Miller by a margin of 33.6% to 26.5%. Still this poll doesn't mean much if Stone doesn't throw in some personal money to compete with Miller during the last week. And some Miller supporters think this poll is pure BS and was done for fundraising purposes. Perhaps. Our sources think Stone is going to get some **IE** (independent expenditure) help --- probably from individuals who want to get even with GOP Assembly Leader Jim Brulte, who has endorsed Miller. (Read that as State Sen. Dick Mountjoy - Miller's arch-foe)...

...FYI: the key in this recall will be the **absentee voters**. As of May 1st, 40,965 voters had requested absentee voter ballots, with some 18,111 voters already voting via AV ballots. From other data, we estimate almost 60% of those requesting AV ballots are Republicans, while 35% of the requests are from Demos. Stay tuned...

FULL METAL JACKET: WITH THE NRA IN TROUBLE, WILL ASSC STEP IN TO FILL THE POWER VACUUM??

Editor's note: Only once in a while has CALPEEK ever written or mentioned the American Shooting Sports Council, a 6-year-old organization formed by the firearms industry in the wake of CA's passage of the Roberti-Roos Assault Weapons Law. But the timing is such that the ASSC may soon begin to assert itself --- at the NRA's expense. Here is CALPEEK's report and analysis...

...Why the attention now on the ASSC? Sources say the reason may have more to do with what's going on at the Nat'l Rifle Assn. The NRA's image is that of an ultra-conservative organization with some hard-core crazies in its membership. And the image wasn't helped by the disclosure that NRA exec. director Tanya Metaska paid a recent visit to the Michigan Militia. In addition, sources say there is a power struggle underway, which may bubble to the surface at the association's May 18th annual meeting in Phoenix. On one side is hardline BoD member Neal Knox vs. Maryann Carter, widow of the late Harlan Carter, long time NRA executive director, who by today's standards, would be a *moderate*...

...Regardless of what happens in Phoenix, there are about 50 million gun owners in the U.S., of which 46 million are **not** involved with any organization. It's estimated the NRA has between 2-3 million members

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nationally, with other pro-gun groups (such as Gun Owners of America/Calif.) adding another 250,000...

...So what's the difference between the ASSC and the NRA? The ASSC isn't set up like the NRA, which depends on small, individual membership dues to sustain its activities. In terms of guns issues, the ASSC regards itself as taking a more reasonable approach. This is not to say that the ASSC doesn't share common ground with the NRA. They do. For example, both groups favor repeal of the assault weapons law; and both favor modification in concealed weapons permit laws. Where the two groups split is on the BATE (the NRA is on the attack against the bureau, whereas the ASSC is working with the BATF); and in Calif., on the funding of a firearms safety course (NRA was opposed to the bill which established this program)...

...Politically, the ASSC is in its infancy. But beginning in 1996, the ASSC may begin to "walk" and flex some muscles. They certainly have the bucks. The ASSC has established a Calif. PAC (CA Cmt. for Preservation of Individual Rights - or CCPIR). While they admit to having more friends on the GOP side, ASSC backed Demos Steve Peace and Jim Costa for the CA State Senate in '94 (the NRA and other gun groups backed the losing GOP opponents)...

...How does the ASSC communicate with voters? Every person who buys a new gun usually fills out a warranty card. Bottomline: ASSC has a monster data base (perhaps 30 million names nationwide). This means the ASSC can do targeted direct mail to a larger universe than the NRA, even at the local level. The ASSC also has full-time political consultants (veteran Eddie Mahe, plus The Tarrance Group). In addition, ASSC has a full-time lobbying staff and office in DC, with exec. director Richard Feldman in charge...

...FYI: the odds are excellent that the FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (AFT) will have a ton of undercover agents at the NRA's annual meeting May 18th. CALPEEK will have its own sources there too.

ASSEMBLYMAN KATZ AT L.A. CURRENT AFFAIRS. Assemblyman Richard Katz(D-Panorama City) will be the featured speaker before the L.A. Current Affairs Forum, 11:30 a.m. reception, 12 noon lunch, May 12, Hyatt Regency Hotel, L.A. For info & RSVPs, ☎ Emma Schafer (310)445-8862...

GOV. WILSON ROUNDS OUT PRESIDENTIAL TEAM.

Editor's note: The tragic events in Oklahoma City have put presidential politics on the back burner for the past few weeks, but that has given all of the GOP candidates time to regroup, dial for dollars and begin to get ready for the Spring push. Here's a brief update & analysis...

...Perhaps because he had more catching up to do, most of the presidential news has focused on CA Gov. Pete Wilson, who in a month's time raised nearly as much as U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm(Texas) has raised in his entire 6-8 months on the campaign trail. From a money standpoint, Wilson's \$8-9 million (in pledges) has put him into the ***bigs*** with Gramm & Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole(Kansas), the acknowledged frontrunner...

...Sources believe Wilson will make a formal presidential announcement in 2 weeks. And that's why in the past 2 weeks he's been busy rounding out his campaign team. Wilson has named Craig L. Fuller to be his campaign chair. Fuller served George Bush as COS when Bush was VP. Another new hire is savvy consultant Ken Khachigian, who was courted by Dole, Gramm, Wilson and Pat Buchanan. This will be Khachigian's 6th presidential campaign. Khachigian will be the campaign's chief strategist. And between Khachigian and Wilson sr. advisor Stu Spencer, plus outside consultants such as James Lake, the previous gap in presidential campaign *experience* has been closed...

...Also aboard is research whiz Joe Rodota, who served on Gov. Wilson's staff as Cabinet Secretary. Giving 2-3 days a week as a volunteer is PR executive Ken Rietz. Also on the team is pollster Fred Steeper. New to the fundraising staff is the team of Keith Coplen & Brian Kraft, who will join Anne LeGassick and Margaret Alexander Parker...

...In terms of endorsements and well known GOP names, the governor scored points for his finance committee. MA Gov. William Weld and Irvine Co. chair Donald Bren will be the nat'l at-large finance chairs. Former Texas Gov. Bill Clements and businessman Thomas Weisel will be nat'l campaign finance chairs. How did Gramm lose Clements? Sources say that coup belongs to Wilson sr. advisor Stu Spencer...

...FYI: If you want the low down on Sen. Gramm, must reading is the April issue of Texas Monthly.

Exec. editor Paul Burka's article on Gramm is called "The Art of Running for President." After you finish reading it, you'll know what *Gramm-standing* is all about. Stay tuned...

L.A. CITY'S NEW SONG: THE PUBLIC SAFETY BLUES.

Editor's note: For those outside of LaLa land, Mayor Richard Riordan has his hands full with two major public safety headaches: the L.A.P.D. and now the L.A.F.D. Here is our *commentary & analysis*...

...Despite the *Blue Ribbon* campaign to support the police (created by L.A. Councilwoman Laura Chick), O.J. Simpson's "dream team" defense has had a field day making L.A.'s finest look like L.A.'s most inept. And this is why L.A. Co. DA Gil Garcetti is tearing out his hair every night; after all, there's only so much the prosecution can do when someone at Parker Center is brain dead and sends out a rookie criminalist to help in the collection of evidence on the *nation's highest profile* double-murder case. And no *high-5s* for 10-year veteran criminalist Dennis Fung either. Lots of mistakes were made. On NBC-TV News, anchor Tom Brokaw asked former DA Ira Reiner if this *sloppiness* by the L.A.P.D. was fairly routine. Reiner's response: "Unfortunately, Tom, it is."...

...And the irony is that the guy at the top, Chief Willie Williams, seems to be covered with Teflon. Yet all this negative stuff is happening on his watch. Can you imagine what the media would be saying about former Chief Daryl Gates if he were still in charge? It's bitter irony because Gates fought the *budget cutbacks* which have racked the department. The bottomline: it doesn't do any good to keep yelling for more cops on the beat if there's not enough support (equipment, cars, crime lab, etc.) to back them up. Mayor Riordan's solution: find a way to get a new chief without causing a major political brouhaha. Good luck...

...As for the Fire Dept., Chief Donald Manning didn't like some of the budget cuts proposed by the mayor's staff so he retired without any notice. He acted like a spoiled child who didn't get his way. City Hall sources say Mayor Riordan isn't especially sorry to see Manning go, but in the wake of Manning's departure, Riordan decided to shake up his Fire Commission by asking for Leslie Song Winner's resignation. Some say Winner was sacrificed to pacify hardliners in the department

who didn't like her agenda. Winner, a political consultant with close ties to U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters, has been in the forefront of trying to get the department into the 20th century, with regard to *hiring practices*. Right now it doesn't look as if Winner wants to go peacefully, so Mayor Riordan is trying to round up 8 council votes to oust her. Will he succeed? It could be close and that isn't good for Riordan. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '96: ADDING MORE NAMES TO THE MIX.

Editor's note: Here's another update on who's IN and who's OUT for House & Legislative races in 1996...

☒ **36th A.D.** - With Sen. Don Rogers *termed out* in '96, sources believe he may have his eyes on Assemblyman Pete Knight's 36th A.D. Lancaster Mayor George Runner(R) is IN for Knight's 36th A.D. post and he has signed consultant Dave Gilliard. Runner is an excellent fundraiser and some sources think he'll have more than \$100,000 in the bank by July. Runner is the founder and CEO of Desert Christian Schools. Another person in the race is school board member/anti-gang activist Billy Pricer, who actually declared before Runner. Others who are testing the waters include Palmdale Mayor Jim Ledford and Santa Clarita Mayor George Pedersen. Water Dist. board president Frank Donato, who had indicated an interest in seeking the 36th A.D., is now OUT and is backing Runner...

☒ **53rd A.D.** - The list of potential GOP candidates who want a shot at Demo Assemblywoman Debra Bowen seems to be growing. In addition to both of the '94 GOP primary candidates, Julian Sirull and David Bohline, add the following to your *long list*: Torrance Councilman Dan Walker; Redondo Beach Mayor Brad Parton; attorney David Barrett Cohen; former Manhattan Beach mayor Bob Holmes; El Segundo Councilman Liam Weston; GOP activist Nadine Martin; Redondo Beach Councilman Greg Hill; and Michelle Brooks, PA exec. with the Western Mobilehome Assn...

GEN. SHALIKASHVILI TO ADDRESS TOWN HALL.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. John Shalikashvili, will address the public issues forum of Town Hall Los Angeles, 12 noon, May 11, Sheraton Grande Hotel, L.A. The general's topic is: "The Mandate for American Involvement Abroad." For info & RSVPs ☎ (213)628-8141...

CALPEEK's INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

◆ **Open Primary Poll** - The Open Primary Act, an initiative which will be on the March '96 ballot, would win if the election were held now, according to some polling data released by S.F. based Charlton Research. The survey of 600 registered voters, taken between Mar. 24-26, shows 63% in favor and 19% opposed. However, Charlton sources note that the YES vote in the survey is *very soft*. An open primary would allow voters to vote for any candidate they want, regardless of party. CRP and CDP are against this initiative...

◆ **72nd A.D. Update** - With the upcoming 35th S.D. runoff on May 9th, where GOP Assemblyman Ross Johnson(R-Fullerton/Irvine) is expected to win without any trouble, attention once again is on Johnson's soon to be vacant 72nd A.D. Yorba Linda Councilwoman Barbara Kiley, former Fullerton Councilman Dick Ackerman and possibly current Fullerton Councilman Chris Norby are the candidates being mentioned in most circles, but **HOLD ON**. A source tells CALPEEK that in a very short time there could be a *draft movement* for former Congressman Bill Dannemeyer of Fullerton. Could Dannemeyer get 50% + 1 and avoid a runoff against this current field of candidates???

◆ **Legal Update** - GOP Assembly Leader Jim Brulte has been dropped as a defendant in a lawsuit filed some time ago by the CA Demo Party over allegations that new Assemblyman Steven Kuykendall(R-Rancho Palos Verdes) failed to promptly report a \$125,000 contribution he received from tobacco giant Philip Morris USA. So now the entire focus will be on Kuykendall...

◆ **Dr. Feel Good Bill** - A bill that would allow psychologists (who have no medical training) to prescribe drugs will be voted upon May 8th by the Senate's Business & Professions Cmt. Sen. Richard Polanco's bill is being opposed by the CMA, the CA Psychiatric Assn., the CA Assn. of Hospitals & Health Systems and the So. Calif. Psychiatric Society. MD sources are worried about the potential for abuse - which is why some call this bill, "The Dr. Feel Good" bill...

◆ **Calif. Political Almanac** - This 525-page guide to Calif. politics is out with its 4th edition. It's at bookstores or can be purchased from the Calif. Journal Press, 2101 "K" St., Sacramento, CA 95814. Cost is \$40.40 (w/tax and s&h). For info ☎(916)444-2840. It's very useful. Stay tuned...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● John M. Robbins Jr. has been named executive director of the San Diego Host Cmt. --- for the '96 GOP presidential convention in that city. Robbins is the former chair/ceo of American Residential Mortgage Corp...

● Californians Against Waste(CAW) and its foundation(CAWF) has hired Mark Murray as executive director and Luke Breit as the associate director...

● Terry New has been named nat'l finance director for U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer(D-CA). Previously, she was finance director for the CA Demo Party...

● Pollster Arnold Steinberg has been hired by the Alliance to Revitalize Calif., the group seeking to qualify 3 tort reform measures for the '96 ballot...

● Former S.F. Examiner political reporter Tupper Hull has joined The PBN Co.'s Sacto office as managing director...

● GOP Assembly Leader Jim Brulte(Rancho Cucamonga) has made some staffing changes. Moving up to communications director is Phil Perry, while Kim Walsh (wife of Gov. Wilson's press secretary Sean) becomes Brulte's press secretary...

● Bell, McAndrews & Hiltachk moves to 455 Capitol Mall, Ste. 801, Sacramento, CA 95814. ☎(916)442-7757...

● Sacto-based Nelson & Lucas Communications has hired Bob Giroux as a VP. He was with State Sen. Lucy Killea prior to moving to N&LC...